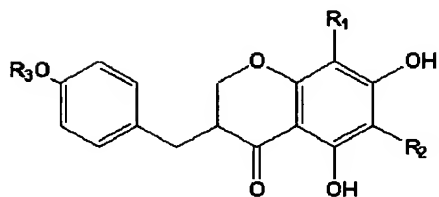


# CLAIMS

1. A dendrite elongation inhibitor for melanocytes consisting of a compound represented by the following general formula (1):

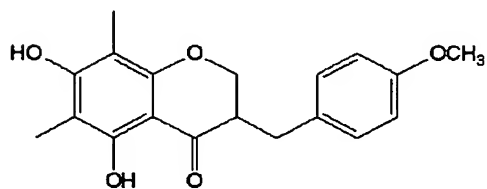


formula (1)

and/or a salt thereof,

wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, and R<sub>3</sub> each independently represent a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group or hydrogen atom.

2. The dendrite elongation inhibitor for melanocytes according to claim 1, characterized in that the compound represented by the general formula (1) is methylophiopogonanone B indicated by the following formula.



3. A skin preparation for external use for inhibiting elongation of melanocytic dendrites, comprising the dendrite elongation inhibitor for melanocytes according to claim 1 or 2 as

an active ingredient.

4. The skin preparation for external use for inhibiting elongation of melanocytic dendrites according to claim 3, characterized in that the skin preparation for external use is used for alleviating dyschromatosis on which tyrosinase inhibitors have insufficient effect.

5. The skin preparation for external use for inhibiting elongation of melanocytic dendrites according to claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the skin preparation for external use is a cosmetic.